



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Doyle Proclaims Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day

(MADISON, September 8, 2005) – Governor Jim Doyle has proclaimed September 9, 2005 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day. A ceremony to observe Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day will take place at the Holiday Inn East in Madison, tomorrow, Friday, September 9, 2005 at 8:45 a.m.

“Our children deserve a healthy start in life,” said Governor Jim Doyle. “By raising awareness about the terrible effects of drinking alcohol during pregnancy, we can help prevent alcohol-related disorders. Making sure that Wisconsin kids are safe, strong and healthy is the best investment we can make in our state’s future.”

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day has been proclaimed by Governor Doyle to:

- Promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol;
- Increase compassion for individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol;
- Minimize further effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol;
- Ensure healthier communities across Wisconsin; and
- Ensure women with alcohol concerns have a point of contact within their own community.

Ceremony participants will observe a moment of reflection on the ninth hour of September 9, 2005, to remember that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol.

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services has launched the Wisconsin Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention Initiative to increase the number of women who do not use alcohol during pregnancy. The Initiative educates pregnant women about the effects of alcohol use during pregnancy and trains prenatal care professionals to help pregnant women access available resources within their communities.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. It is a leading cause of mental retardation and contributes to learning and behavioral disabilities.

For more information, visit the Department of Health and Family Services web site at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/substabuse>.

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